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## CITYVIEW

City of Hamilton Planning and Development Department

1996

## OPEN SPACE



## WHERE ARE WE?

"It" is the greatest remnants - a long, narrow ribbon where nature and humanity converge in an intricate, at times uneasy, mix of wilderness, city, town and form. This jewel, set within the most densely populated industrialized part of Canada, provides precious refuge for rare and endangered plants and animals. It is a place of recreation and inspiration for people caught up in frequently frenetic lifestyles.

A quote from the book, *The Niagara Escarpment: A Portfolio by Port and Rosemarie Keough, Misery Bay, Montserrat*



## What is open space?

Most people think of Open Space as Parks. Open Space lands include several other areas you may not think of - lands that maybe subject to flooding, erosion and other hazards, environmentally significant, natural features (e.g., escarpment) and private recreation areas.



## Why do we need open space lands?

Open Space lands are a valuable community resource. Some of the benefits of open space can be measured - being able to play tennis or other sports, to take a walk amongst the trees, to sit and chat with friends, and to watch the children play on the swings and slides. Other benefits cannot be measured - the importance of plants and trees in the provision of oxygen, the use of wetland areas as a filter system for groundwater, the importance of plant and wildlife populations.





# WHERE ARE THE CITY'S UNIQUE

## West Harbourfront

Most of the land around the harbour has traditionally been used by industry. However, one of the goals of the City, in conjunction with the Hamilton Harbour Commissioners, is to restore the importance of the west harbourfront area as a place where Hamiltonians can come and enjoy the waterfront.

In recent years, there have been significant developments in the west harbourfront. Many people have visited both Bayfront Park and Pier 4 Park by walking, jogging, rollerblading, etc. In the vicinity, there are recreational opportunities for boating (slips, sailing clubs).

The importance of linking this area to the rest of the City is recognized as a priority.

**Many of you have probably heard about the proposed concept plan for the West Harbourfront Precinct. This is one of many projects.**

This open space area is being enhanced by the efforts of other organizations and levels of government. These include:

**Vision 2020: The Sustainable Region; The Remedial Action Plan; Fish and Wildlife Restoration Project; The Renaissance Project; and, Waterfront Regeneration Trust.**

## Cootes Paradise

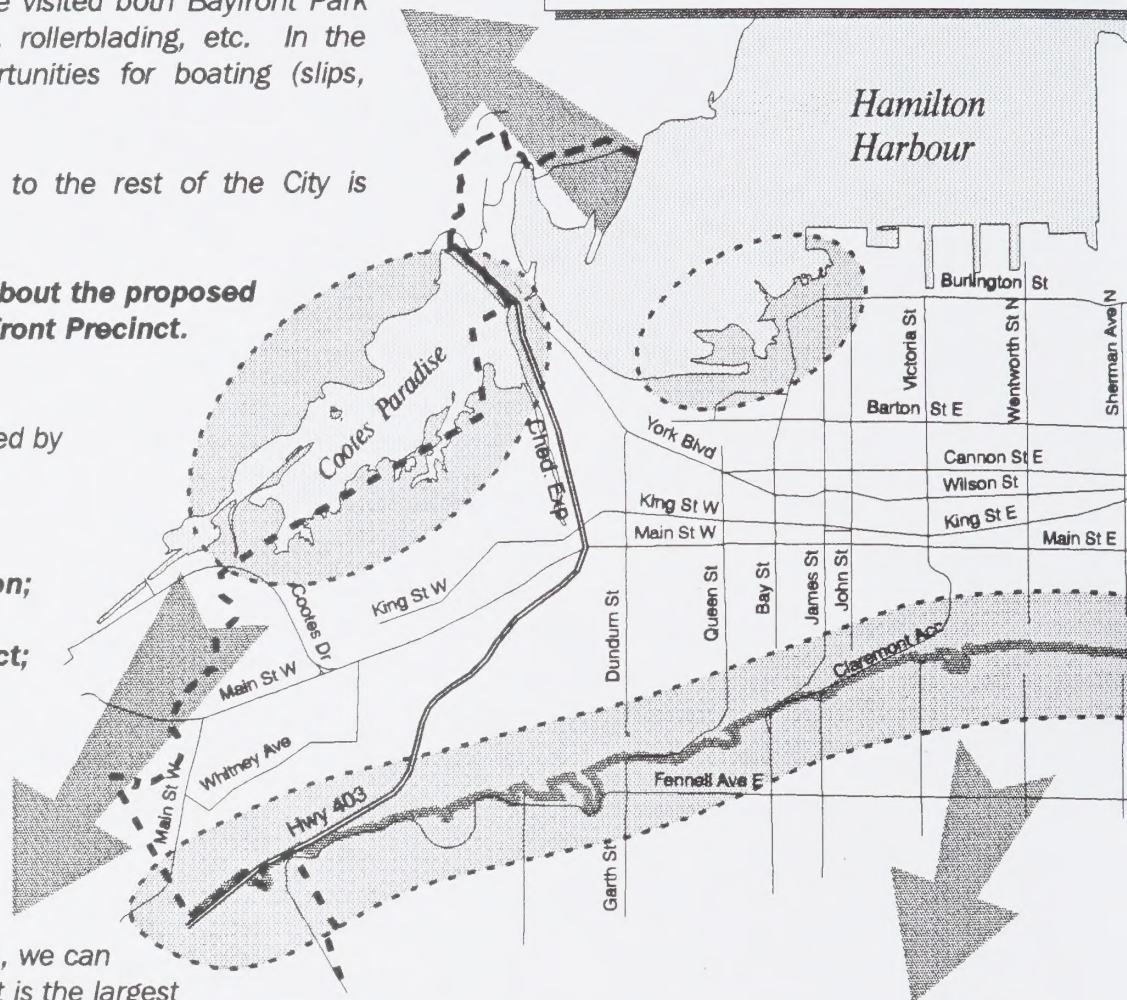
As we drive along Highway 403, we can see Cootes Paradise in the distance. It is the largest marsh in the region, 729 hectares in size, most of which remains in its natural state. Hamiltonians love to walk their dogs, hike, and bike in this area. In 1989, it was estimated that 100,000 people used the trails in the area and this number is going to increase (Region of Hamilton-Wentworth - ESA Development Sensitivity Study, Geomatics International March 1991, p.31). As much as we love to use our open space areas, humans do have an impact on their environment (e.g., ruts resulting from tires has damaged slopes in the area).

**Should our open space areas be accessible or should there be controlled access points for public use?**

Five of the most unique and important open spaces are:

**-the Niagara Escarpment which is a Provincial Park Reserve; Red Hill Creek Valley; Cootes Paradise; the west harbour; and, Confederation Park.**

Not only are they important for the open space and recreational activities to not only the citizens but also the City. The Official Plan recognizes their importance and as **OPEN SPACE** and special policies to promote their use.



## Niagara Escarpment

The Niagara Escarpment winds its way all the way from Tobermory to Hamilton. The Escarpment is a precious resource with many recreational, environmental and aesthetic qualities. An integral part of the Escarpment, is used by many people for open space.

**How does the City balance the protection of the Escarpment with the progress of the 21st century?**



# UNIQUE OPEN SPACE AREAS?

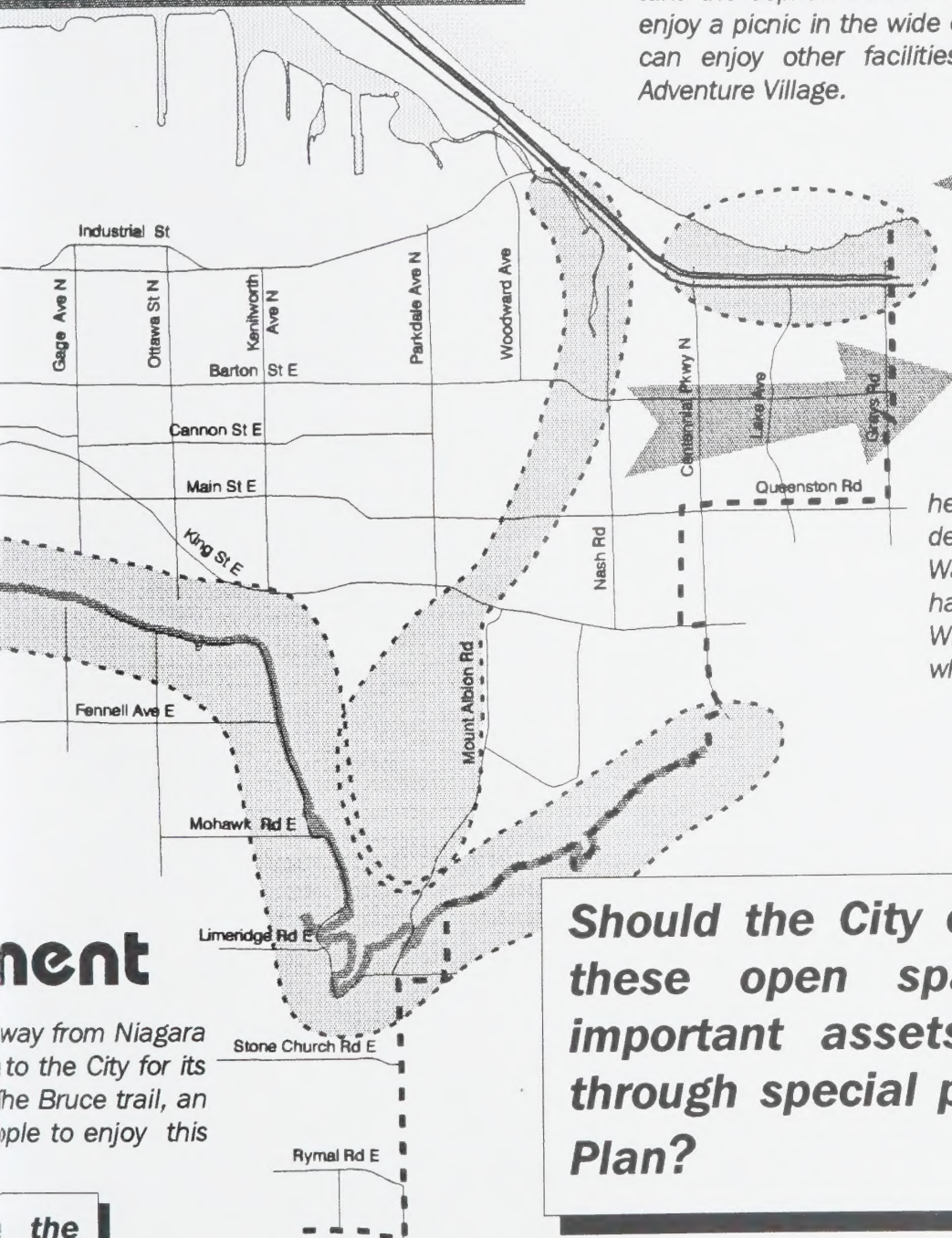
Open space areas that come to mind are:

considered as a "World's Biosphere  
Notes Paradise; the area around the  
Park.

the benefits but they also provide significant  
of the City, but to the surrounding area.  
through the identification of these areas  
note their unique features.

## Confederation Park and Van Wagners Beach

These two areas combined provide for passive and active recreational activities. You can stroll along Van Wagners Beach or take the asphalt trail on the lakefront (3 km in length); you can enjoy a picnic in the wide open space areas within the Park or you can enjoy other facilities such as the Wild Water Works or Adventure Village.



## Red Hill Creek Valley

The Red Hill Creek Valley is 330 hectares in size. A trail system has been developed extending from the Queen Elizabeth Way to the Albion Falls area. The trail system has been developed as a multi use path. What that means is that people on bicycles, in wheelchairs or by foot can use it.

**Should the City continue to recognize these open space areas as very important assets to the Community through special policies in the Official Plan?**

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# What is the difference between types of open space?

## ① Lands in Need of Environmental Protection

There are a number of parcels of land within the City that cannot be developed because of certain environmental features such as the potential for flooding or erosion, unique wildlife, marshes, etc.. We may not be able to build sports facilities on these lands, we may not be able to take a walk on these lands, but they are important to us.

For a more detailed guide to issues of the Environment, please read the brochure titled: "Issues and the Natural Environment".

## ② Parks and Recreation Areas

There are four types of parks

- **Parkettes;**
- **Neighbourhood Parks;**
- **Community Parks; and,**
- **City Wide Parks.**

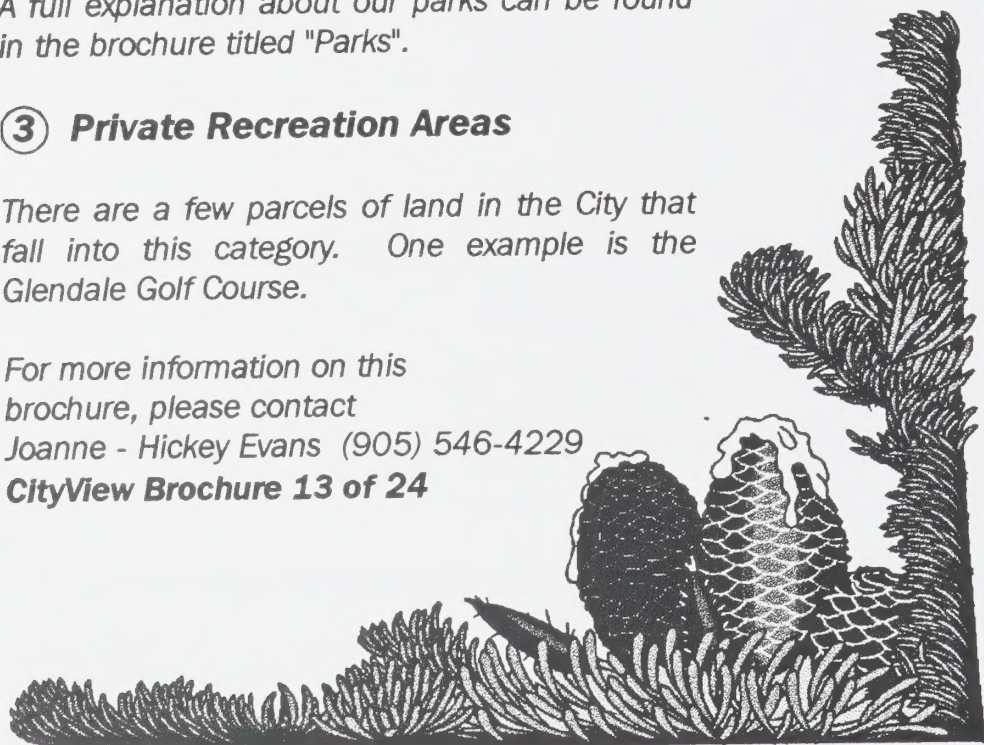
There are also a number of open space areas which the City classifies as Natural. Examples include woodlots, valley lands to waterfront and the Escarpment.

A full explanation about our parks can be found in the brochure titled "Parks".

## ③ Private Recreation Areas

There are a few parcels of land in the City that fall into this category. One example is the Glendale Golf Course.

For more information on this brochure, please contact  
Joanne - Hickey Evans (905) 546-4229  
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### CITYVIEW

CityView Hamilton's Plan for Tomorrow is your opportunity to present your ideas and thoughts on the future of Hamilton.

Your ideas will ultimately form the basis of a new Official Plan for the City of Hamilton.

Staff of Hamilton's Planning and Development Department are available to answer your questions on any facet of CityView.

### Ways to Contact Us...

Joanne Hickey-Evans at (905) 546-4229  
Keith Exance at (905) 546-4158

FAX (905) 546-4202

E-Mail : [city.hamilton.planning@freenet.hamilton.on.ca](mailto:city.hamilton.planning@freenet.hamilton.on.ca)

### Mail to...

City of Hamilton  
Planning and Development Department  
7th Floor, City Hall  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8N 3T4